

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2007
County Administration Center**

Members Present

JoAnne Bushby; Jeannette Day; Donna Ewing Marto; Paula Guerra-Lynch; Kelly Henwood; Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose; Sandra McBrayer; Katherine Smith-Brooks; Sylvia Selverston; Daphne Watson;

Members Represented

Supv. Greg Cox (Maddy Morris); Renee Bahl (Christine Lafontant); Mary Baum (Grover Diemert); Carlos Flores (Nina Garrett); Mary Harris (Roseann Myers); John Hensley (Kim Broderick); Sharon Lawrence (Cindy Charron);

Visitors Present

Cheryl Blanchette, Harder & Company; Bob Brooks, NAI NCSDC; Danielle Brunetta, S. D. Leap Board; Grover Dremer; Margaret Dyer; Dawn Griffin, Alliant International University; Michelle Lustig, S. D. County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services; Rafael Munoz, MSW Intern; Susie Terry, S. D. County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services.

Staff Present

Harold Randolph, Brenda Torrez

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Barbara Ryan, Vice Chair. Everyone present introduced themselves, stating their name and affiliation.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes – September 7, 2007

Because a quorum was not present, the September 7, 2007 minutes could not be approved.

IV. Report from the Chair

- ♦ Commission staff provided support to the 3-day Children's SART Leadership Institute, which took place earlier this week. The purpose of the Leadership Institute is to develop a plan to establish a SART children's screening process for the early identification and treatment of high risk children.
- ♦ Executive Committee approved the following items:
 - Letter of Support for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) for a County grant application to make a video, *Holding Families Together*, which encourages family preservation when a youth "comes out of the closet" to their family.
 - In January 2008, the Commission will need to elect a new Vice-Chair and Secretary. Vivian Reznik's term is expiring and Nan D'Anna recently retired.
 - A Roundtable discussion has been scheduled for November 29, 2007. This will be a discussion of a case and how Mental Health Services Act funding could impact services to individuals who touch many different systems; e.g., mental health, probation, child welfare services.
- A. Sunset Review – ***Motion Required – DEFERRED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (no quorum present)***
 - 1. Recommended changes to the Ordinance:
 - a. Delete reference to and members required for the AB 1741/SB 1352 Youth Pilot Program.
 - b. Change special members and elected officers term of office to four-year terms
 - c. Delete the following membership positions: State Agency and Farm and Home Advisor.

- d. Add Executive Director of First 5 Commission of San Diego
 - e. Add additional School Superintendent in special member category
 - f. Change Executive Committee duties to state "be placed on the next Commission agenda for notice" (change ratification to notice).
 - g. Change reporting period of Annual Report to Board of Supervisors from calendar year to fiscal year.
2. Advisory Board Continuance

- B. Allocate remaining Signs of Support Funds to San Diego County Parks and Recreation Society for Childhood Obesity Initiative "Prescription for Fitness Pilot Project" – ***Motion Required – DEFERRED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (no quorum present)***

The "Prescription for Fitness Pilot Project" will help meet a goal for the Children's Obesity Initiative. Community clinic physicians will participate by writing a "prescription for fitness" for any child who may benefit from participating in recreational activities through the Parks and Recreation Department. The funding will help pay for fees that may be involved.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Child Abuse Prevention Committee (Donna Marto)

The CAPC Steering Committee has now combined with the Domestic Violence Children's Council to alleviate duplication of effort and coordinate discussions.

- B. Fairness and Equity Committee (Daphyne Watson)

Cheryl Blanchette from Harder & Company is the facilitator for this committee. She brought a resource list that included the background and highlights of what is going on across the country. Recently, an anonymous survey was conducted to help determine the direction of this committee as it continues to grow.

The foster parents' group is going well and they are using "Family Finding" to help connect children of color with their family members.

- C. Education Committee/Foster Youth Services Advisory Committee (Michelle Lustig)

Michelle distributed and reviewed three handouts:

1. An overview of the San Diego County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Program. This overview identifies services provided to foster youth including: tutoring, mentoring, academic counseling, participating in Team Decision Making meetings, Juvenile Detention Grant, college connection, California Youth Connection, FY-SIS and collaboratives. Each of these services involves the participation of other agencies and volunteers to help our foster youth succeed.
2. A Foster Youth Services Program Fact Sheet. This Fact Sheet describes the strategies to support their work, the anticipated outcomes, a list of FYS partners and the legislative mandates.
3. Foster Youth Student Information System (FY-SIS) User & Usage Report. The FY-SIS is a secure website containing educational information on children in the foster and probation systems. The report distributed shows the most current stats on who is utilizing the system and how they are accessing it. Information is only accessed by authorized personnel in the courts, probation, County Office of Education, schools and school districts to help ensure the foster youth education success. This System is a collaborative effort between 42 school districts, Child Welfare Services, the Courts and San Diego County Office of Education.

VI. Presentations

A. Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention Planning (Philip Hanger)

Dr. Hanger distributed a flyer on the Framework for Prevention and Early Intervention Funding, which is an overview of the Resource Materials. The PEI Resource Materials are provided to assist county mental health offices and PEI partners in designing and selecting programs to meet desired outcomes for individuals and families, programs and systems, and communities. The planning process will go through February or March 2008. It is expected that the Plan will be submitted to the State in March 2008, with an implementation date of July 2008. State guidelines are that a minimum of 51% of the fund will be for individuals age 25 and under. The goal is to provide an economical way to provide services.

The packet of Resource Materials for Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) was also distributed.

Public input regarding PEI is greatly appreciated and community members are welcome to provide input at the Mental Health Services System of Care Councils and Mental Health Board meetings (meeting locations and times were distributed). Participants should refer to the State PEI Guidelines and the Program Draft Resource Materials Strategies in preparing their suggestions, both of which are available at <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSA/default.asp>.

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency has also developed a form to assist participants in preparing their input. This form was distributed and is also available at http://www.sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/home/mhsa_prevention.cfm.

B. Juvenile Court Policy Group Proposal MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (Kim Broderick)

Kim Brodrick gave a PowerPoint presentation on San Diego County Multi-System Proposal of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention / Early Intervention. The basic premise of this Proposal is that the education system is consistent to all children and youth from pre-school age to college age. Schools are usually the "first contact" in recognizing that a child needs help. Historically, schools are the primary referring agency for services since problems are usually first observed by school personnel. School based services are a strategy to remove barriers in accessing services and improving coordination. Prevention Services can be designed based on community needs and leveraged with other programs. School based programs could be implemented by community based organizations or schools. According to the MHSA State guidelines through investing in the strengthening of the school's infrastructure for supporting student's mental health, coordination of existing resources, and strategic enhancement of services on school sites, MHSA funds have the potential to leverage key resources of public education.

It was mentioned that 0 to 5 year olds may not receive the prevention and early intervention services needed since they are not a part of the school system. Roseann shared information on a Screening, Assessment and Referral Treatment (SART) Program that is being planned for implementation in San Diego County. SART is a systematic approach to identifying children who are at risk for developing developmental, behavioral and/or social emotional problems. As mentioned in the Chair's report, the Children's SART Planning group is in the initial design phase. The process is being led by Dr. Chasoff and Dr. McGourty from Children's Research Triangle of Chicago. In San Diego this process will be integrated with the First Five Health and Development Initiative.

Representatives attended from Children's Hospital, First 5 Commission of San Diego, Probation, Public Health Nursing, Juvenile Court, Mental Health Services, Alcohol and Drug Services, American Academy of Pediatrics and San Diego Regional Center. The planning group will expand to include others and the process will include opportunities for input from organizations throughout the County.

The Commission Roundtable will provide further opportunity for Commission members to discuss and develop recommendations for this funding.

C. Leadership Empowers All Possibilities (LEAP) Youth Advocating for Positive Change for Foster Youth – Constructive Solutions (Raquel Calvo)

The San Diego LEAP Board is a youth advisory board represented by motivated current and former foster youth. Its purpose is to assist current and former foster youth to transition out of foster care by creating opportunities in the community, breaking down stereotypes, developing leaders and make the transition a benefit for the community and themselves.

The California Youth Connection and LEAP recently held an all day forum called "Speak Out". In this forum, current and former foster youth were allowed to express their opinions on various subjects that specifically touch foster youth. Topics included: transition, education and placement.

Transition: Foster youth prepare for their transition from foster care by attending Independent Living Skills (ILS) classes. The forum allowed for discussion on what changes the foster youth would like to see in the ILS classes; e.g., providing ILS drop-in centers and making it more hands-on, interactive and fun.

Education: Discussion on education included: ensuring schools recognize the foster care culture, having equality in school and having an educational advocate. Youth would also like to see education as a primary focus of the ILS classes.

Placement: Topics included youth creating permanent relationships, having a youth voice represented in placement settings, ensuring people understand they are in foster care through no fault of their own, and help them to prepare for transition out of foster care and into adulthood.

VII. Additional Business and Announcements

The action items for this meeting will be addressed at the next Executive Committee meeting, November 16, 2007.

Sylvia Selverston announced that this is her last meeting as a Commission member because she is stepping down from her position. Michelle Solomon will be her replacement.

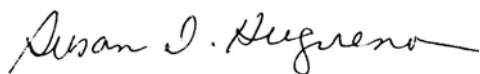
Roseann Myers, CCYF Executive Director, has promoted and transferred to Child Welfare Services, Policy and Program Support. In her new position, Roseann will continue working closely with the Commission representing Child Welfare Services.

In appreciation for her dedicated service over the last seven years, Roseann was presented with flowers and an engraved glass plaque. The Executive Committee also presented Roseann with a gift. Several individuals expressed their appreciation of Roseann.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



HONORABLE SUSAN D. HUGUENOR
Chair

Written by Brenda Torrez